



The Voice of Westminster

We are a servant church, nurturing each other's spiritual journey and personal gifts. All are welcome!

May 2021

1+1=1

I am sure you look at this equation and wonder what planet I came from. Often I refer to this as the mathematics of marriage, with two becoming one, yet there is a remainder of 2. This letter, however, is not about two individuals coming together to become one married unit. This is about two services becoming one, as we experiment moving forward. Beginning Sunday, May 9, 2021, Mother's Day, we will begin a six-month trial of having just one service, at 10 a.m. instead of the two services we have now (9 a.m. and 11 a.m.).

While this may seem to be happening fast, Session has been dialoguing about this since I began my service at Westminster. Three things played a significant role in this decision: the pandemic, Easter Sunday, and a desire to come together as one congregation, because we are stronger when we work together to do God's work.

The pandemic impacted us and the rest of the world, in ways we couldn't have imagined. But out of this turmoil, we were able to begin an online ministry that will continue to build its following of "digital disciples." This continues to grow and develop. For a congregation with members living elsewhere part of the year, it's a great way to stay in touch. For parents who must stay home with a sick child, it's a valuable connection. The pandemic did more than just nurture virtual worship. It reminded all of us how much we miss seeing each other - something we likely took for granted in the past. We received calls in the office and occasional visits from members asking, "When are we going to get back together?"

Easter Sunday was the day when we all got back together. Not in two services, but with one service at 10 a.m. It featured both contemporary and traditional music and the added joy of a brass quartet. Numerous people commented "Why couldn't we do this every week?" Granted, not every week is Easter, nor do we have "house quartet" to perform each Sunday. In light of this experience, however, Session felt that now was the time to try this out for six months.

Coupled with these reasons, we felt it was time to come together, get to know each other better, and celebrate our oneness, in the midst of our diversity.

Make no mistake. Unity is more than bringing people into the same room at the same time. Each of us must embrace the changes. This means reaching out to those we don't know that well because we've worshiped at different times. Everyone is compromising something, but we pray that all will strongly participate in this new service, as we move forward. We hope to see all of you at 10 a.m. in the Sanctuary on May 9, if not before. Praise the Lord!

Blessings, *Pastor Roger*

April Session Notes

The Westminster Session met April 20, at 6:30 p.m. in the Atrium. Pastor Roger led the devotions and discussion regarding spiritual leadership

Session approved the following:

Requests for use of the church facility:

- Marion Music Academy June 12 and June 13, 2021 \$400 use fee
- Kennedy HS National Honor Society Food Drive Saturday, May 1, 10 a.m. through 2 p.m.
 - Use of the parking lot for drive through/drop off
 - Use of the lobby for the drop off collections
 - Use of the Atrium for preparation of meal boxes for distribution
- Wedding blessing for non-members officiated by Rev. Roger Grandia on Thursday, May 20, at 5:30 pm. The couple has received the wedding fee information.

Worship Services

After much discussion, the Session adopted the following recommendation from the Administrative Committee:

To begin one worship service in the Sanctuary on a six (6) month trial basis with the following schedule:

- 8:30 am Breakfast
- 9:00 am Sunday School
- 10:00 am Worship in the Sanctuary

There are volunteers willing to continue cookies and coffee after service, so this can be continued.

A second motion addressed the timing of this schedule: The single service schedule shall begin the six (6) month trial on Sunday, May 9 at 10:00 a.m. and continue into the month of November. The Breakfast and Sunday School schedule will begin after the summer season.

Following these two motions, discussion continued as to the communication actions to notify the congregation of this change. A mixture of announcements from the pulpit and through the website, email blasts, mailed letter from the office, and article in the May 2021 newsletter was discussed.

The meeting adjourned with prayer by David Liljedahl.

Date Set for Spring Cleanup



Westminster will have its Spring Cleanup on Saturday, May 1 from 9 a.m. to Noon. Will you get paid? No! But there will be coffee and donuts beginning at 8:30 a.m. Then, it's off to do a variety of outdoor projects like raking, returning rocks to the parking lot medians, and cleaning up debris. And that's just the beginning! Work off those pesky winter pounds and help Westminster, too!

If you can, bring gloves, shovel, garden or lawn rake, loppers, hedge trimmers. Doug Horton will bring a large lawn vacuum-meaning a tractor and a leaf blower. He's also bringing paper bags for trash and debris. Doug's appointment at the landfill is at 12:30. Thank you, in advance, for helping us clean up at Westminster!



When are we going to ... ???

One of the most common questions the staff gets in the office is, "When are we going to..." There's no doubt the pandemic rocked our usual schedules and as people get vaccinated, they want to know when we are starting up again. So, we thought we would compile a list of things we know are in the works, in terms of meeting again at Westminster for various activities.

- ◆ Spring Cleanup—that's an easy one. The date is May 1 from 9-to-noon. Donuts and coffee at 8:30 a.m.
- ◆ Prayer Shawl Ministry has been meeting via Zoom, but plan to resume meeting at the church on May 5 at 9:30 a.m.. They'll decide how to proceed after that.
- ◆ Build Better Bridge hopes to resume in June at Westminster.
- ◆ The Coopers plan to resume Sunday breakfast at Westminster in the fall.

If you have a group that met at Westminster before the pandemic, please let us know if you would like to resume meeting at the church!



One Great Hour of Sharing-Final Tally

Westminster updated its total collection for the One Great Hour of Sharing offering that's part of the PCUSA Mission effort. Westminster collected \$677.00 for the 2021 campaign thanks to the generosity of Westminster members. Thank you for caring! This particular fund supports Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program and Self-Development of People. As you can imagine, this has been a most challenging time for the work of OGHS. Thank you, Westminster!



Loaves & Fishes

New Dairy Coolers for Clients



After a generous donation from the Cedar Rapids Noon Lions Club, our volunteers at Loaves & Fishes saw the arrival of two large coolers to be used for milk, yogurt and other dairy products that the pantry gives out on a regular basis. We are grateful for the Noon Lions Club contribution! Blessings!

Loaves & Fishes-New Hours Starting in May

As their numbers relax to pre-pandemic levels, our volunteers at Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry have opted to cut back the Tuesday hours to 2:30-5 p.m. The change will begin on Tuesday, May 4. When the pandemic developed, demand for food increased. That, along with the need to socially distance and make sure people wore masks, made it necessary to expand hours to serve clients. Since then, additional food banks have opened in the Cedar Rapids-Marion area. People have headed back to work. The pace has slowed a bit (but still steady) and the pantry workers opted to move to shorter hours. Let's take the opportunity to thank God for these volunteers and their coordinator, Jan Kosowski. They persevered when they were at risk and even when the derecho downed trees in their own yards and damaged homes. Thank you L&F volunteers. We can't say it enough!

Loaves & Fishes Awarded New Grant

We have few details, but as we get ready to print this newsletter, we have learned that Loaves & Fishes has been awarded a \$10,000 grant from the state. Some of that money to go toward rent at the Tanager Place building where the pantry now operates. Special thanks to our bookkeeper, Tina Mueller, for amassing all the receipts needed to apply for the grant. Look for additional information in "This Week at Westminster"-our weekly announcements.



Property Report

Westminster's Property Committee has been busy, as usual. Co-moderator, Jan, Kosowski submitted this summary of the latest information.

Grant Received: Last November, WPC applied for a grant through Presbytery of East Iowa for derecho expenses not covered by insurance. WPC was able to apply for our \$1,000 deductible and this winter received that grant. The grant income was placed in to our Long View funds.

The Ravages of Winter: During the severe cold snap earlier this year, an ice dam formed on the roof over the old pastor's study. A lot of water came through the ceiling of that room causing extensive plaster and lighting damage as well as soaking the new carpet in that room. God bless Dryspace who came immediately (cold, dark night of course!) and helped get water off the room and God bless ACE who helped Jan Kosowski locate a switch to turn on a heat tape located in the outside downspout for that roof. The switch is located in the bowels of the basement in the sump pump room, at the back - you need a flashlight to find it and have to be taller than Jan! Who knew it was there!! Dryspace has fixed a bit of damage on that roof but now plaster, lighting and carpet need to be addressed.

There has also been water damage in Pastor Roger's study adjacent conference room. Dryspace has fixed the cracks on that flat roof. While we still call this the "new section" of the church, it actually is not new and the cracks there were due to age. Dryspace also has fixed the foyer entrance canopy that was hit yet again - now the canopy lighting can be replaced with new LED fixtures.— *Jan Kosowski*



May Birthdays

Bob Vancura	1
Richard Cornish	2
James Heck	5
Prince Nabuyoli	7
Sue Winegarden	7
Tony Huebsch	12
Fran Hanzel Johnson	13
Rhae Lampe	14
Judy Ruth	18
John Henderson	20
A.J. Plummer	20
John Swanson	22
Paul Kongshaug	23
Steve Allsop	26
Joyce Sedlacek	26
Pat Teig	27

The Month of May Thank You Volunteers!

9 a.m. Liturgist

May 2—Paul Kongshaug

11 a.m. Liturgist

May 2—Dick Trotter

10 a.m. Liturgists*

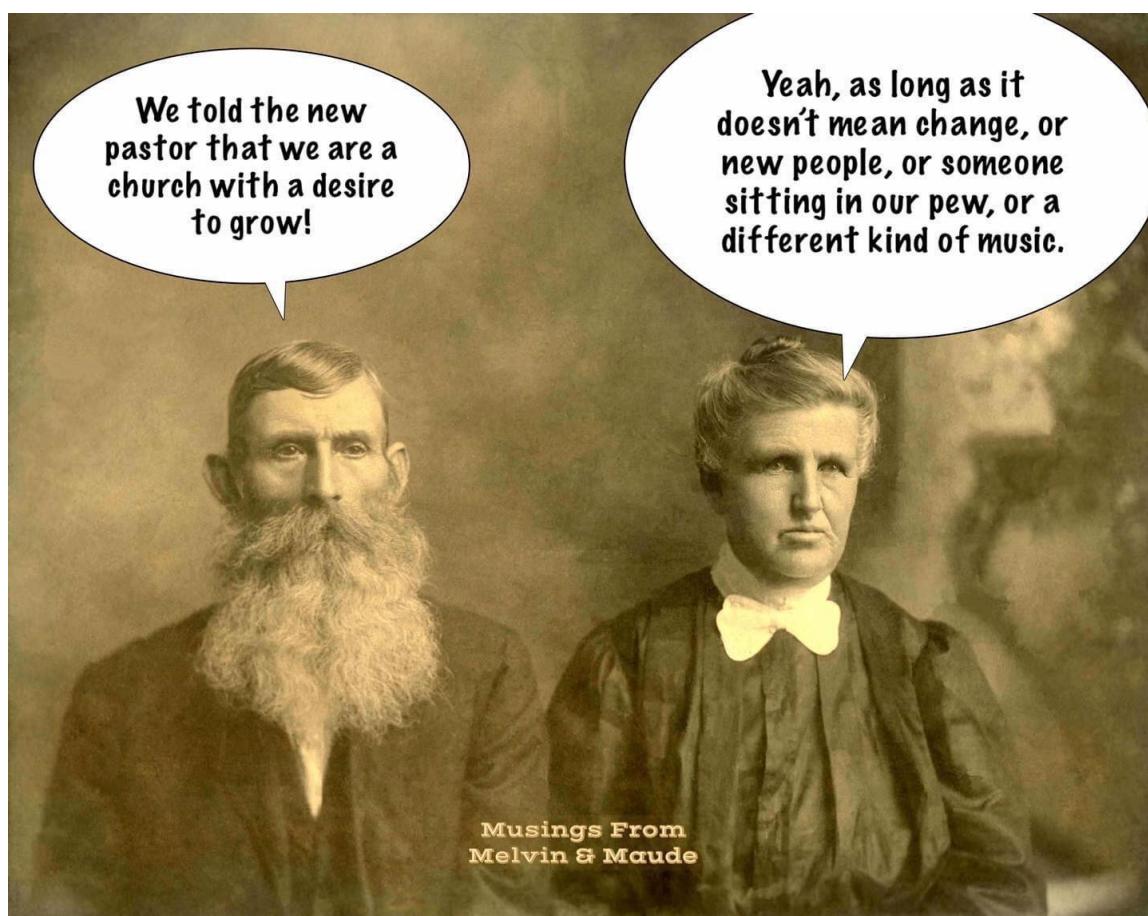
May 9—Leanne Leeper & Deb Liljedahl

May 16—Loren Neubauer & Brian Read

May 23—Lemi Tilahun & Jan Walton

May 30—Barb Moss

*During the first 3 Sundays of the new schedule, we will have the two liturgists previously scheduled.



This Month at Westminster—May 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 9 am—Worship-FLC 11 am—Worship-Sanctuary 1 pm—Beacon of Light	3 3 pm—Melanated Men 6pm—Deacons Meeting 7 pm—AA	4 2:30 pm—L&F 6:30 pm—NA	5 Prayer Shawl 9:30 am	6	7 Church Closed 8 pm—NA	8
9 10 am—Worship—Sanctuary 1 pm—Beacon of Light	10 1 pm—Property Committee 7 pm—AA	11 2:20 pm—L&F 6:30 pm—NA	12	13 5:30 pm—Personnel Meeting	14 Church Closed 8 pm—NA	15 8 pm—NA
16 10 am—Worship—Sanctuary 1 pm—Beacon of Light	17 3—Melanated Men 4:30 pm—Finance Committee	18 2:30—L&F 6:30 pm—Session Meeting	19	20	21 5:30 pm—Lusignan-Rustici Wedding—Sanctuary	22 8 pm—NA
23 10 am—Worship—Sanctuary 1 pm—Beacon of Light	24 7 pm—AA	25 2:30—L&F 6:30 pm—NA	26	27	28 Church Closed 8 pm—NA	29 8 pm—NA
30 10 am—Worship in Sanctuary 1 pm—Beacon of Light	31 Memorial Day—Church Office Closed 3pm—Melanated Men 7 pm—AA					

Please visit www.crwpc.org/calendar to stay informed of changes to this month's calendar.

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Return Service Requested

The Voice of Westminster
May 2021

Westminster Presbyterian Church

Office Hours

Monday - Thursday

8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Sunday Worship Times

9:00 a.m. FUEL service in the Family Life Center

11:00 a.m. Traditional service in the Sanctuary

Beginning May 9

Worship Service at 10 a.m.—Sanctuary

Visit us on Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, Twitter or at www.crwpc.org

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